ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner Jeff Regnart, Director



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NORTON SOUND COMMERCIAL KING CRAB FISHERY TO CLOSE

The summer commercial open access and CDQ king crab fishery in Norton Sound will close at 6:00 PM Friday, September 13. All pot gear must have doors open and bait containers removed by 6:00 PM Friday, September 13. All crab must be delivered by 6:00 PM Saturday, September 14, and permit holders must pull all their pots out of the water by Friday, September 20. In the event of mechanical difficulties and another vessel is needed to pull your pots, please notify Jim Menard in the ADF&G office in advance. The marine forecast is for 20 knots or less the rest of the week, but crabbers are advised to keep close watch on the weather and pull their pots earlier if necessary.

Through noon today the reported harvest in the Norton Sound summer commercial fishery was approximately 358,000 pounds of red king crab, including 16,252 pounds of CDQ crab. The guideline harvest level for 2013 of 495,600 pounds will not be reached.

Commercial crabbers are reminded that they may only keep tagged crab in their catch if they are legal in size. If you find a sublegal, tagged crab, record the tag number and location and bring the information to the ADF&G office to obtain a tag reward cup or hat. To receive a reward for a legal crab the crab must be brought to ADF&G personnel in the office or at the seafood plant for measurement and examination.

For further information please contact the Nome office at 907-443-5167 or 1-800-560-2271 or the Unalakleet office at 907-624-3921.

Good Luck, Good Crabbing and Safe Travels.